THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, January 19, 1807.

Memoir of his Serene Highness the late Duke of Brunswick-Luneburg, Field-Marshal, and Commander in Chief of the Army of Prussia, and Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

[From the Monthly Magazine.]

A Reference to the singular times in which we live can alone resolve the phenomena that at once surround and astonish us. Every thing exhibits the appearance of novelty, for the established order of society has been suddenly inverted, a new race of men has sprung up, and a new and more terrible system of war been practised with success. In fine, the sword of the conqueror has made as many real changes in human affairs, and that too almost with the same rapidity as the wand of the necromancer ever effected in the regions of romance, so that both history and geography, in respect to this portion of the globe, are to be studied anew.

During the age of Charles V. and Francis I. the feudal system began to crumble under its own weight, and Europe assumed a new and more stable appearance.

A kind of public rule, arising out of public policy, appeared to have been instituted by general consent; and as the bounds of the various sovereignties were pretty accurately ascertained, and their rights and duties plainly and distinctly marked, this, the most civilized quarter of the world, began to be considered as one immense commonwealth, governed by a moral sense, and regulated by what (from its generality) was denominated the law of nations.

Nearly two centuries and a half elapsed, before any gross invasion of this happy condition of political equality took place; and free states as well as states enslaved, limited monarchs as well as despots, either possessed or affected a reverence for public political justice. The first great inroad made into the happy and tranquil situation in which Europe had so long remained, proceeded from the unprincipled invasion and division of Poland, by the unexpected union of three great rival powers*. This was such a gross and manifest violation of the moral sense, as applied to nations, that the mind of every honest man, of course, revolted against it. The original wrong was followed up by new aggressions, and one of the finest countries in our hemisphere was at last annihilated, by the combination of three imperial and royal spoilers.

From that moment there was an end of every practical idea of the law of nations; and it was left to the French revolution to prove, that the law of the strongest was thenceforward to become paramount. That great event, which from its origin seemed big with the most portentous changes, has in its consequences involved the fate of all the neighbouring countries. States, kingdoms, empires, have melted before it; hereditary claims, legal titles, aristocratical pretensions, have dissolved and disappeared at its approach. The elements of modern history are changed; political relations have assumed a more ambiguous form; the art of war, in particular, has been carried to a fatal and ominous degree of perfection, while those generals who had grown hoary under arms, and whose characters appeared consecrated to the just admiration of posterity, have been suddenly eclipsed by a new race of soldiers, and a new system of tactics!

The illustrious house of Brunswick is traced up to Albert Azzoni, one of the richest marquisses in Italy, born, according to some, in 996; but if we are to credit others, not until 1097. Having married Cuniza, or Cunigonda, heiress of the ancient house of Guelphs, or Welfes, in Germany, he obtained considerable additions to his pretensions, if not to his estates; and according to Muratori, his grandson Obizon, marquis of Este, in 1184, received the investiture of the lords of Genoa and Milan. This descendant of this chief (Guelph IV.) became duke of Bavaria; Guelph V. called the Gross, designated himself duke of Spoleta, marquis of Tuscany, lord of Este, &c.

Henry the Black having assumed the habit of a monk in the convent of Weingarten, was succeeded by Henry the Magnanimous and Superb. Henry the Lion and the Great was duke of Saxony as well as of Bavaria: and having conquered the duchies of Lunenburg, Mecklenberg, part of Brandenburg, &c.

* Auſtria, Pruſſia, and Ruſſia.

&c. he became a prince of considerable power and consequence. From this stock sprung the royal family of England, which, having attained the electoral, soon added the regal crown to its arms; and after having settled in Great Britain, kept up an interchange of alliances with the other parts of the family still remaining on the continent.

Charles William Ferdinand, duke of Brunswick, of whom we are now about to treat, was born on the 9th of October, 1735, O. S. Like all the German princes of his time, he was bred to the profession of arms from his cradle; and as he was descended from a house eminently warlike, and was taught to look up to an uncle* who already began to attain a portion of his future celebrity, he applied himself to war as a science with no common degree of avidity.

By the time he had attained the age of nineteen, the hereditary prince (for so he was called during the life-time of his father) experienced many opportunities to distinguish his courage and his conduct in arms. The duke of Brunswick, perceiving a powerful league formed against France on the continent, had joined his troops to those of the allies, from whom he received a subsidy. His brother, the renowned Prince Ferdinand, was actually in their camp; and he was accompanied by his nephew, whose memoirs we are now about to detail, and who, under so great a master, expected to attain both experience and reputation.

But events had occurred about this period, which placed both father and son in a very delicate and critical situation. The French having attacked Hanover, merely because his Britannic Majesty (George II.) had refused to tolerate their encroachments in America, the duke of Cumberland was sent thither to command an army of observation. But Marshal Richlieu advanced against him with superior numbers, and his royal highness was obliged to lay down his arms, on which the enemy took possession of the whole electorate, and occupied its capital.

The duke of Brunswick, actuated by the policy natural to petty princes, became afraid of the progress of the French, and was justly alarmed at the humiliating treaty of Closterseven. He therefore entered into an agreement with the courts of Vienna and Versailles, by which he stipulated that his troops should return home, on condition of his dominions being considered as neutral. On this he immediately issued orders for that purpose; but Prince Ferdinand, who now acted as generalissimo, took it upon him to detain both them and the hereditary prince. This circumstance, which was considered by two of the contracting parties as a breach of faith, produced

* Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick.

duced a solemn protest on the part of both France and Austria; but the duke was at length reconciled to the measure, which, in consequence of the events that afterwards occurred, did not fail ultimately to prove equally agreeable to his interests and his inclinations.

Meanwhile, the hereditary prince signalized himself on many occasions at the head of his Brunswickers; and the king of England having negociated an alliance, offensive and defensive, with the king of Prussia, by which the latter was to receive an annual subsidy of 670,000l. the war soon began to assume a new appearance. The whole Protestant interest in Germany having been now united by the money of Great Britain, the convention of Closterseven was declared null and void; and 25,000 troops were sent from England, to serve under Prince Ferdinand.

(To be continued.)

ANECDOTES *of* BONAPARTE.

THE Emperor Napoleon rises early in the morning, for he sleeps very little, not more than three or four hours a night. After having taken his coffee, of which he is very fond, as he never drinks less than thirty cups a day, made very strong, he goes to his bath, the water of which is mixed with some medical preparation, to cure the effects of the impurity of his blood, which is visible upon his skin. As he never can be a moment idle, and makes the most of his time, he is attended by a person who understands the English language perfectly, and has the ability of translating it without hesitation into French. He, therefore, reads the English newspapers to the emperor, as if he had a French paper in his hands. This he calls his hour of amusement, and sometimes laughs at the absurdity and ignorance of the English writers, as he calls their contents. The person who reads to him, is instructed not to pass by any expressions, or to soften them; he must read as he meets them; for he likes to know what the enemy thinks and writes of him. After having bathed, he dresses himself, and goes to his chamber, where he has always some one to attend him; his ministers or officers have the preference, next his private secretary. He is called at the hour of dinner, and but half an hour is occupied with that meal, for he eats very little; and has almost never any appetite, on account of the quantity of coffee which he drinks from time to time.

In the afternoon, he is as busy as in the morning, but allows himself, sometimes thrice a week, one hour, to go to some theatre or other; but it is never known when he goes, or which

theatre

theatre he means to visit; he very seldom knows it himself 'till dinner time, when he inquires for the different plays which are to be given in the night. The empress accompanies him always: she is fond of him, and he is very much attached to her. He is always attended by Rostan, a Mameluke, who is very much attached to him. He was a common man, whose family and relations suffered greatly in Egypt; Bonaparte, when in that country, took a fancy to him, and, after having proved his fidelity, employed him in his service; he raised him from time to time, and he is now a colonel. He is not only with him every where in the day time, but in the night he is the nearest to his person; Madame Bonaparte does not sleep with him. Rostan sleeps before the door of his bed-chamber, so that it is impossible it can be opened without disturbing him. When he is upon his post, the emperor thinks himself safe; for he relies much more upon this Mameluke, than upon all the pages, guards, and watchmen, that are placed in the different avenues to his bed-room.

ANECDOTES *of the* EMPEROR ALEXANDER.

SOME one having requested an estate in absolute right, of the Emperor Alexander, the prince explained to him the reasons why he could not yield to his demand.

He wrote thus to him: "In general, the peasants of Russia are slaves; it is unnecessary for me to enlarge on the degradation and misery of such a state, but I have made a vow never to augment their number, and, with this view, have laid it down as a principle not to give an absolute right over peasants. The estate shall be made over to you and your descendants for ever, at a life-rent: this is the same thing, with the sole difference that a peasant cannot be sold or alienated like a beast. These are my motives, and I am persuaded that, were you in my situation, you would act in the same manner."

Before it was incorporated with Russia, the city of Lieban was in the receipt of an annual revenue of eleven thousand crowns, for maintaining the schools and churches, and generally, for the benefit of the community. On the union of Courland to the empire, Lieban lost this receipt, and for six years afterwards was reduced to the last extremity. The present sovereign restored the city to the possession of its rights, not only for the future, but he also paid them the arrear of seventy thousand crowns.

A few days before the opening of the new school of Toula, a woman badly dressed, with two children, whose garments denoted

noted indigence, threw herself at the feet of the governor, and offered him a paper. "Here," said she, sobbing, "is the diploma of nobility of my husband, who is dead from chagrin and misery; receive my children. The emperor is just; your heart is good; have pity on these poor orphans: I should die in peace if I were sure they would be placed in the new school." The infants lifted their eyes in supplication to the magistrate, who was greatly affected at the scene. He raised the mother, and placed her by his side, embraced the children, receiving them as pupils of Alexander, and ordered the uniform of the institution to be given to them. The gratitude of the mother was unbounded—she was unable to articulate her thanks. Several cadets of the establishment being present, looked, at first, upon their new comrades with indifference; but when they learnt that they were gentlemen like themselves, though poor and unfortunate, they ran to embrace them, and loaded them with caresses, each one tendering them a part of his wardrobe, and his linen. The witnesses of this scene were melted in tears, and all were eager to give proofs of their concern and tenderness to this disconsolate mother.

A CRITICAL CASE,

Most respectfully submitted to the Consideration of the Gentlemen of Warwick Lane.

GENTLEMEN!

HAVING been dosed, drenched, potioned, lotioned, blistered, glistered, bled, cupped, scarified, pilled, bolussed, and powdered almost to suffocation, without relief, I take the liberty to lay my case at the fountain of physic, hoping to rise purified from every dreg of disease, and washed as immaculately white as a bridal smock in its salubrious streams. I have had advice too, from all the venerable Lady Bountifuls' round the country (pardon the impertinence, in introducing old women to so respectable and learned a body, well knowing a rivalship has long subsisted between you); but as these beldames wholly explode medicine, and are elaborately profuse in their recommendation of pure air, moderate exercise, wholesome viands, &c. was I to follow such antideluvian notions, and have the impudence to get well without medical aid, it would be striking at the very root of the science, demolish and fritter its branches to atoms, and so unpardonable an affront to the immortal Galen, and the whole body of his respectable and learned descendants, that I could never forgive myself for my presumption: more especially, as I have a nephew coming

into practice, and mean to solicit your interest to *push him.* But this is not all. My very life might fall a sacrifice to my temerity, in fact it would be the same as sticking my sconce in a pillory at once; all the gallipots, vials, phials, and pill-boxes would be dashed plump at my pate, my brains fly out in the bustle, and I should be tolled to church by a clatter of pestles and mortars, instead of the minute bell.

But this is not the whole of the distress my afflictions have brought upon me. I have about a dozen nephews and nieces, who have all, in their turn, persuaded me into swallowing every infallible nostrum, patented, or not patented, advertized for these twenty years back; and indeed, who would suffer disease, when certain cures can be so easily and cheaply obtained, that must render a man immortal? But damn the whole set, (pardon me, gentlemen, for swearing,) nephews, nieces, and all. As for the latter, I have found, after being nearly poisoned, my belly swelled, and my legs shrunk, they were elbowing me out of my life, in the hope of handling my fortune, so I have made a new will, and rewarded each affectionate designer with a *shilling.*

Now, gentlemen, permit me to draw your attention to what these cursed quack-assailants are about. Not satisfied with undermining bodily health, but they are joining in confederacy to destroy the temper of mind. Finding their quack advertisements pass unread, in revenge, they begin to conjure up *ghosts* to frighten a man out of all patience. Willing to know a little how the world goes, I take in a London paper three times a week, together with the Sherborne Mercury; read with heartfelt pleasure the daring exploits, and gallant victories, obtained over the enemy by constitutional ardour, and genuine courage of British troops, and with real concern, the successes of that enemy, where true valour, loyalty, and patriotism, have fallen sacrifices to *treachery* alone.

While I am meditating on calamities every good Englishman must sensibly feel, my eye is again attracted by another paragraph, beginning, "*At this alarming crisis,*" or, "*The present state of war.*" This naturally excites curiosity, leading, as I suppose, to some fresh political information. Again, my attention is called to an "*observation* of the late Lord Chesterfield," and I am gaping with avidity for some further introduction to the *graces,* or a flash of genuine wit; but instead of politics, or elegant sentiment, I am only informed that another auxiliary is added to the former list of poisons, vended by Nostrum and Co. for the destruction of the human race. This, gentlemen, inflames me to such a degree of passion, that I smash my pipe against the grate, and am ready to throw the newspaper into the fire. This is *haunting* a man downright! Now if these fellows sent off their paper Mercuries in

due

duc form " Monitum Pharmacopolæ," one's reason would not be turned like a whirligig, or lost in a whirlpool of passion, so that I am compelled to take a composing draught from my case of coniac, in order to grow *cool* again.

Please to observe, also, that I have so great a respect for this pretty, sinning world, that I would rather live three days in it, than a thousand years in history; and so extremely modest, that I cannot say, I feel the smallest ambition to lie in state under an edifice of immaculate marble, or my soul sent to Heaven in a fine monumental inscription, though all the poets in Christendom were to combine in rivalling my dead neighbours, and to out-herod Herod, in stamping my memory with virtues I never possessed, or pretended to.

I must inform you, gentlemen, that I am not a very old man, being but *sixty-five*, though I have quarrelled with all my relations, one nephew alone excepted; and as I might still have a young family of my own, was determined to batchelorize it no longer; so about four months ago, married a beautiful creature, just turned of eighteen; no fortune, but all life and spirits, and most elegantly accomplished. My friend and neighbour, Colonel *Deep* brought her from London some time since; she is his cousin, and I find the whole family are most affectionately attached to each other. My pretty creature too, has introduced me to another cousin, of her's, a charming young man, who kindly, and without invitation, came down from London, on purpose to congratulate us on our marriage, and has done us the favour to reside in the house ever since, and we make such an agreeable *trio!* Cousin takes up his violin, my darling flies to her piano, whilst I, occasionally, enliven the concert, with throwing in a bar of thorough bass, in a deep *groan*, arising from a sudden twinge in my great toe.

You cannot conceive how the dear creatures strive to divert me! they are so fond, that they are never happy out of each other's company, and frolic and play like two kittens; whilst I sit so happy and *patient* in my easy chair, cursing the bile, and sending the rheumatism to the flames of perdition! obliged, now and then, to swallow a bumper of brandy to expel flatulency, and keep the gout out of my stomach.

You see, gentlemen, what a happy situation I am in! a beautiful young wife, a *warm* friend, a large estate, an elegant house, and a good cellar; and would not it be a little hard to have the *grim* gentleman come and clap his cold paw on me, whether I will or no, and rob me of all these blessings at once?

To avoid which, the young folks propose passing the remainder of the winter at one of the watering places. Passing the winter at a watering place, I find is now becoming the *rage*, among people of consequence and fashion. It is an excellent plan! and saves a vast expence and trouble, in making

servants happy and comfortable at home. It saves the expence too, of entertaining relations and friends, poor tenants and neighbours, and will, in time, banish all good old English hospitality, and other antediluvian notions out of the nation; as company may be found, and parties formed at the rooms at a small expence, each paying his own subscription. But this is not all. They have the supreme satisfaction of knowing that this newly adopted plan of the wealthy, not only saves their own purses, but contributes largely towards starving the industrious inhabitants of neighbouring villages, and small country towns by devouring the delicacies, and leaving them without a *taste*. Coarser food rises in consequence, and the price of food enhanced throughout the whole country; so you will perceive, gentlemen, it is of *general utility*.

My young friends and myself are all in a bustle, preparing for the excursion; and if you think an old pickled dog, may, in the spring, receive benefit by being fresh *salted* and *soused* in a briny sea-bath, I will try at a plunge, being willing to *keep* as long as I can. Keen air, too, may give keener appetite, and I hope to enjoy my *curry* and *claret* with double relish.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your's, most respectfully,
Crewkerne. HARRY HEADSTRONG.

HISTORY *of* KENILWORTH CASTLE.

(Concluded from Page 24.)

IT was in particular allusion to the scenes here depicted that Mr. Warton, in describing the great features in the poetry of the age, observes, that "the books of antiquity being familiarised to the great, every thing was tinctured with ancient history and mythology. The heathen gods, although discountenanced by the Calvinists, on a suspicion of their tending to cherish and revive a spirit of idolatry, came into general vogue. When the queen paraded through a country town, almost every pageant was a pantheon. When she paid a visit at the house of any of her nobilty, at entering the hall she was saluted by the Penates, and conducted to her privy chamber by Mercury. Even the pastry-cooks were expert mythologists. At dinner, select transformations of Ovid's Metamorphoses were exhibited in confectionary; and the splendid iceing of an immense historic plumb-cake was embossed with a delicious basso-relievo of the destruction of Troy. In the afternoon, when she condescended to walk in the garden, the lake was covered with Tritons and Nereids; the pages of the family were converted

into wood-nymphs, who peeped from every bower; and the footmen gambled over the lawns in the figure of satyrs. "I speak it, (says Mr. Warton,) without designing to insinuate any unfavourable suspicions, but it seems difficult to say why Elizabeth's virginity should have been made the theme of perpetual and excessive panegyric; nor does it immediately appear, that there is less merit or glory in a married than a maiden queen. Yet the next morning, after sleeping in a room hung with the tapestry of the voyage of Æneas, when her majesty hunted in the park, she was met by Diana, who, pronouncing our royal prude to be the brightest paragon of unspotted chastity, invited her to groves free from the intrusions of Acteon."

Lord Leicester continued to make Kenilworth an occasional residence 'till his death; when, by an inventory taken the 14th day of November, 1588, his goods and chattels in the castle amounted to 2684l. 4s. 1d. Having no issue by his wife, he bequeathed the castle to his brother Ambrose, earl of Warwick, and in reversion to Sir Robert Dudley, who was by some thought to have been his legitimate son. Sir Robert Dudley, offending King James by not returning from his travels when summoned, his possessions at Kenilworth were seized, by virtue of the statute of fugitives, to the king's use. In the survey which was made on the occasion, the walls of the castle are represented to have been 15 feet in thickness; the park-ground to contain 789 acres, and the pool to cover 111. The circuit of the castle manors, parks, and chace, is rated at from 19 to 20 miles; and the value of the whole at 38,554l. 15s.

Not long after this, the agents of Prince Henry agreed to give Sir Robert 14,500l. for his right in the castle and its appendages. Of this 3000l. alone were paid; but into the hands of a merchant who broke, so that no money ever reached Sir Robert Dudley. On the death of Prince Henry, his brother Charles claimed the castle as his heir; and retained possession of it 'till his accession to the throne. In the first year of his reign, he granted it to Robert earl of Monmoth, Henry lord Carey, his eldest son, and Thomas Carey, esq. for their lives. The inheritance was afterwards granted to Lawrence viscount Hyde, of Kenilworth, in whose descendants, the earls of Clarendon, the property is still vested.

Dilapidated as the castle now is, sufficient may be traced among its ruins to give us some notions of its former splendour. The present entrance is nearly in the centre of the north side, through the gate-house erected by Lord Leicester, which is now the only inhabited remain. R. L. is seen in the spandrils of the door: and the same letters, with the garter, appear on each side the fire-place of one of the rooms, with ragged staves

and

and "Droit it loyal." Between every pannel of the wainscot, the ragged staff is repeated.

For the appropriation of the other buildings we are principally indebted to Sir William Dugdale's History, whose plan of the castle still furnishes the best clue both to the antiquary and the traveller in tracing its remains.

Passing from the gate-house, the vestiges of what was once the garden may be clearly seen; with the ancient stables at a considerable distance to the left, against the east wall which bounds the base court of the castle. A little further, on the right, stands Cæsar's tower, a square building, strengthened by four small towers at the corners. This is not only the most massive, but in its main structure, the most ancient remnant of the fortress. It seems to have been the castle as it was erected in the time of Henry I. with a few alterations by the earl of Leicester. Close beyond the western side, but detached from the tower, are seen the remains of the kitchens; joined by a smaller, though not so strong a tower as the former, at the north-west corner. Nearly the whole of the western side is occupied by the hall; the windows, walls, &c. of which are ornamented with the richest tracery, though now, for the greater part, wound round with ivy; but exhibiting, with some of the adjoining buildings, the principal improvements which were made to the castle when inhabited by John of Gaunt, in the days of Richard II. The privy chamber, the presence chamber, Leicester's buildings, and Sir Robert Dudley's lobby, are the additions on the south-east and eastern sides of the inner court, which were made between 1563 and 1575. King Henry's lodgings form perhaps the only portion of the main structure which was built by Henry VIII. the Plesans en Marys, which he erected near the Swan tower, was only removed from the tail of the pool, where it had been built by Henry V. The outer walls, which occupy within their circuit seven acres, are strengthened at proper distances by very ancient towers. At the south-west angle is the sally port; in the corner, on the north-west, the swan-tower; on the north, the gate-house; at the north-east corner, Lun's tower; on the east side the stables, and beyond them the water-tower; and lastly, on the south-east, Mortimer's-tower (rebuilt by Leicester) leading through the tilt-yard to the gallery-tower, which, as we have before mentioned, appears in ancient times to have been the grand entrance of the castle. But even beyond this, at a considerable distance toward the Warwick road, are other fortifications, which do not appear to have been noticed by the writers on the castle. The pool, or lake, we have so frequently mentioned, is now quite dry; and both the earth-works and the ruins fast decaying. R.

Reflections on the present State of Public Affairs.

[From the Address of William Roscoe, Esq. on his Return as one of the Members for Liverpool, to the Electors of that Place.]

THE situation of this country is new and peculiar: I do not know whether in any time it was more hazardous or more dangerous; a powerful enemy has swept over the continent; we have seen long established empires shaken to their foundations: the storm which seems to come towards us, and our situation in the estimation of every reasonable man, is alarming and dangerous. In this situation what is to be done? It appears to me it is only by a vigorous and united defence, a decided union in sentiment, a conviction that by union alone we are to defend ourselves against the common enemy, that we are to hope for success. Whatever is required from us, I have no doubt we shall submit to; and I hesitate not to say, that sacrifices must be made, and privations submitted to, for the preservation of every thing that is dear to us. Whether sufficient measures have yet been taken for the defence of the country, is a question which I, and perhaps no one, will pretend to answer; but I will say this, that if these measures, in the experiment are not found instantly efficient, other measures must be resorted to, to secure us against so powerful an enemy; but, on the other hand, whilst we shall all agree in the necessity of a united vigorous defence, there is also another point to which I would claim your attention.

We have gone on too long in one path, a path which has led to the destruction of our allies, and brought the enemy to our very door. It is now to be considered whether it is not high time to change that track, and whether it would not be better to adopt a system of less virulence, of less exasperation, and, in some degree, to take the firm and decisive attitude of a man conscious of his own strength, resolved to defend himself; but unwilling, by any act of his own, to provoke further resentment. This seems to me to be the present situation of this country. Peace, in the present hour, cannot be expected, and if it were to be obtained, I hesitate not to say, that, in our present situation, peace and war would be convertible terms: peace would be an armed peace—war has no definite and fixed object. There must be a time for the passions and prejudices of nations, like those of individuals, to cool. When we have got into that state, it is possible, that in a little time, when we see what alterations take place on the continent, then we may be able to enter into negociations; and, I trust to Heaven, in the end, to accomplish that desirable object—an honourable and lasting peace. Peace is the natural state and condition of this country; for a country which exists by its commerce, and superiority

periority of its manufactures, can wish for nothing but a fair competition with the other nations, to bring these manufactures into the market. Thefore, as this country, of all others upon the face of the earth, possesses the highest superiority in its manufactures, it should, of all others, attend to the preservation of peace.

Whilst these important subjects are considered, there is another of no inconsiderable consequence, which is the internal state of these realms. I hesitate not to say, publicly, that hitherto this country has been considered, rather as an object of taxation than improvement: and, I believe, that its ministers have been more ready to crop the fruit from the branches, than to water the root of the tree; but I hope the time is come, when we shall adopt a different plan of conduct; and, I trust, the present administration are aware of the necessity of supplying the country, in every way they can, with those resources, of which, at the present period, it stands so much in need. I do hope that our present administration will attend to the encouragement of the arts, of the agriculture, and the commerce of this country: and I assure you, that if I should, in fulfilling the duties of the station to which you have raised me, be enabled to contribute to it, in the least degree, I shall consider it the happiest circumstance of my life.

Before I sit down, there are two objects to which I must intreat your particular attention. The first is a subject on which at one time there might have been great difficulties in the situation in which I now stand, but, upon which I think there are now few, or perhaps none left; the subject I mean, is that of the African trade. On that subject, my sentiments have long been known, and they are now what they ever were. It is unnecessary for me to bring them forward on the present occasion, and I shall, therefore, only say, that I most heartily concur in the resolutions of the houses of lords and commons, that it is expedient that that trade should be brought to a termination. But, whilst I thus expreee my decided sentiments, I must at the same time say, that it always has been, and still is, my opinion, that that termination should be accomplished by gradual and proper modes; that the nature of the business itself, the situation of the unfortunate objects, both on the coast of Africa, and in the West Indies, require that there should be various methods adopted to prevent those unhappy consequences to which a sudden abolition would give rise. It has been the fashion throughout the kingdom, to look upon the town of Liverpool, in a peculiar light, as interested in the prosecution of this branch of commerce. But I will venture to say, that this idea is founded on ignorance, and I will here assert, as I always shall, that men more independent, of more public virtue, and private worth, than the merchants of Liverpool,

pool, do not exist in any part of these kingdoms. The African trade is the trade of the nation, not of any particular place; it is a trade, 'till lately, sanctioned by parliament, and long continued under the authority of the government. I do not make this remark in vindication of the character of any gentlemen engaged in the trade, who stand in need of none; but in order to shew, that if any loss should arise to any individuals who are concerned it, it is incumbent upon government to make a full compensation to such for the losses they may so sustain. I would just point out to your attention, that in case the town of Liverpool should be deprived of this particular branch of commerce, there are other sources to which it can, and ought, to look as an equivalent. It would perhaps, be improper for me, at present, to point out what they are; but I do conceive, when the spirit and speculation of the merchants are taken into consideration, it would be very proper, at some future time, (and I hope it will not be long) when the charter of a certain great company will be renewed, some method will be taken of introducing modifications, by which the other great parts of the kingdom shall be permitted a participation in that trade.

The other subject, on which I wish to say a few words, is one of considerable moment—it is that which is usually called a reform in parliament. If, by a reform in parliament, be meant any alteration in the established constitution of this country, as it has long existed, in its three estates of king, lords, and commons, then I declare I am totally adverse to such reform in parliament. I consider the king as the key-stone of the arch of the constitution, and that if he was taken away, the whole must inevitably fall into ruins. I consider the nobility as a body of hereditary descent, adding dignity to the crown, and forming a powerful and useful barrier, on many occasions, between the crown and the people. I esteem the house of commons, properly purified and constituted, as the legitimate organ of the public voice; and, therefore, if any innovation be attempted upon any one of these, to that you will always find me a decided enemy; but if, by a reform in parliament be meant the purifying of the house of commons from all kinds of bribery and corruption, whether that of electors, or those who sit in that house, then I am a friend to a reform in parliament. If it should be proposed that the elective franchises should be granted to great towns and extensive bodies of men who do not enjoy them, then I am a friend to a reform in parliament. If it should appear, that insignificant and corrupt boroughs have from time to time tainted the dignity of the house, and it should be thought proper to deprive them of the right of election, then I shall be found an advocate for a reform in parliament. And I must be allowed to say, that I

would much rather extend the elective franchises to bodies of men who do not possess it, than deprive others of it. It is by these gradual and temperate measures of improvement, in the house of commons, that we are to bring about a reform in parliament; and I will venture to add, that it is my opinion, that in this course alone there is safety to the nation. These are the principal subjects to which I have thought it necessary to entreat your attention; I will not enter into any other topics this evening, but just observe, that I trust you will always find me a friend to civil and religious liberty. Gentlemen, I beg leave to return you my most sincere and hearty thanks collectively and individually.

DESCRIPTION *of* CORSHAM-HOUSE, *in* WILTS.

CORSHAM HOUSE, and its connecting domain, have passed through different possessors, and appear to have been gradually augmenting and improving. Previous to the year 1582, we seek in vain for any thing like authentic history. At that period the ancient part, perhaps the whole marked black in the ground plan, was built, as appears by an inscribed stone inserted over the great door in the south front. This portion of the mansion is said to have been erected by William Halliday, Esq. who was an alderman and sheriff of London, and whose daughter and coheir married Sir Edward Hungerford, knight. This lady endowed a charitable establishment in Corsham, for the maintenance of six aged women, and the education of a certain number of poor children; but the latter charity appears to be neglected or lost. To whom Corsham House next devolved I have not been able to ascertain, but it was purchased by Paul Methuen, esq. father of the present possessor, in 1747. This gentleman made considerable alterations and additions to the house, &c. and employed Launcelot Brown, both as his architect and "landscape gardener." The additions then made to the mansion are defined in the accompanying ground plan. At that time the Methuen collection of pictures was very considerable in number, and eminent in public estimation. The pictures were mostly, however, at the town house in Grosvenor-street, and a catalogue was published of them in the "English Connoisseur," 1766. To concentrate the whole at Corsham House, and display them to advantage, was the intention of the late possessor, but to effect this was reserved for the present worthy owner, who has greatly enlarged the family mansion, and had it fitted up and embellished in a magnificent style. The modern architectural additions were made from the designs of John Nash, esq. and great improved

alterations

alterations were at the same time made in the park and pleasure grounds by Humphry Repton, esq. The whole now displays a combination of beauties and conveniences, which must confer much additional reputation on the respective professional abilities of the artists, and be a grand memorial of the munificence of the proprietor. As the late additions have been very considerable, I shall briefly describe them, and, at the same time, define the character of the former building.

The middle of the house, on the south side, was occupied by a hall, stair-case, drawing-room, eating-room and a narrow passage, all which were small and very low. These have been laid together, and the former into one hall, the ceilings taken away, and an open gallery made all round, with a staircase at both ends, leading by double flights of steps on each side to the galleries. This room, which is fitted up as an old baronial hall, is one hundred and ten feet in length, including the staircases, twenty-five feet high. The east wing of the house had a square library, two rooms, and a stair-case. The latter, and the two smaller rooms, have been thrown together, and converted into a library forty-five feet long, and twenty-two feet wide. The square apartment is now made a breakfast room, and is remarkable for a very singular cornice, which is composed of small heads in basso relievo, supporting the points of groins. Though there are one hundred and sixty in number, yet they are so varied that not any two are alike; and though every head is expressive of bearing weight, yet each countenance expresses it in a different way. The additional new rooms are on the north side, of the house and consist of a saloon, an eating-room, and a music-room. The two latter are of the same proportions, measuring thirty-six, by twenty-four feet, and eighteen feet high. The saloon in the middle, is of an octagonal shape, forty feet diameter, and twenty-four feet high. It commands a beautiful view of the lawn and water. These three rooms are en suite, and communicate with the grand picture gallery, hall, and passage. In designing the centre of the new north front, the architect had judiciously chosen for his model, the east end of Henry the Seventh's chapel, at Westminster, the character of which is peculiarly light and elegant. Its form and component parts are admirably adapted to this situation: for by projecting before the regular surface of the building, and having windows in the three outer faces, it thereby gives to the saloon a variety and extent of prospect, singularly advantageous. The turrets and flying buttresses are also beautiful appendages, and by catching rays of the sun when in the east or west, are calculated to illumine the gloom of a northern aspect.

The scenery of the park, and pleasure grounds, has been chiefly formed by the operation of art. Under the late Mr. Brown many improvements were made in the disposition and plantations of the park and shrubberies; but the most material and considerable have been formed after the designs of Mr. Repton. This gentleman has directed the formation of a large piece of water, in the lowest part of the park. It is seen from the picture gallery, saloon, and all the rooms on the east side of the house, and attracts the eye to a fine combination of wooded scenery, which is backed by a pleasing sweep of distant hilly country.

[This account is extracted from an historical particular of this elegant mansion, accompanied by elegant prints, and a beautiful ground plan of the house.]

On THEATRICAL GESTURE.

GESTURE, (says the earl of Malmesbury) was of such consequence upon the ancient stage, that there is reason for believing, that on some occasions, the speaking and the acting part were divided; one player spoke the words in the proper tones, while another performed the corresponding motions and gestures. We learn from Cicero, that it was a contest between him and Roscius, whether he could express a sentiment in a greater variety of phrases, or Roscius, in a greater variety of intelligible significant gestures. At last, gesture came to engross the stage wholly; for under the reign of Augustus and Tiberius, the favourite entertainment of the public was the pantomime, which was carried on entirely by mute gesticulation. The people were moved and wept at it, as much as at tragedies; and the passion for it became so strong, that laws were obliged to be made for restraining the senators from studying the pantomime art.

As are passionate gestures (says he) to the eye, so are passionate tones to the ear; so are passionate ideas to the imagination. To feel the amazing force of an accumulation like this, we must see some capital actor, acting the drama of some capital poet, where all the powers of both are assembled at the same instant.

NEW INVENTION.

AN engineer in the borough of Southwark has devised a mode of giving motion to hammers, stampers, knives, sheers, &c. without the application of wheel, pinion, or any other rotative motion, by means of various powers now in common use, whereby he proposes to save much labour and expence.

Answer, by W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater, to W. D.'s Rebus inserted Nov. 3.

PARACHUTE's a machine's that descends thro' the air,
And is the dark mystery you'd have us declare.

☞ We have received the like answer from J. Salter, of Broadhembury; Rusticus, of Awliscombe: J. S. and H. Stoneman, of Exeter; R. Gidley, and P. Codd, of Dean Prior; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; and B. Belcher, of Stonehouse.

Answer, by W. D. of Bristol, to H. Stoneman's Rebus, inserted November 10.

THE MANCHINEEL will sure reveal
The foreign tree you would conceal.

*** Similar answers have been received from Rusticus, of Awliscomb; John Ryan, and B. Belcher, of East Stonehouse; J. Woodman, of North Curry; J. Whitnell, of Ashcott; H. Glasson, of Praze; and W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey.

Answer, by J. Salter, of Broadhembury, to the Charade, inserted November 10.

YOUR parts together, when combin'd,
STONEHOUSE, near Plymouth, you will find.

☞ We have received the like answer from John Woodman, of North Curry; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. S. W. Piper, and Henry Stoneman, of Exeter; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; B. Belcher, of East Stonehouse; T. Coumbe, of St. German's; J. Whitnell, of Ashcott; J. Rowden, of Heytesbury; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; S. R. of Hinton St. George; P. Codd, of Dean Prior; M. P. M. of Marazion; G. P. O. of Beer; H. Glasson, of Praze; and J. Badcock, of Mousehole.

A CHARADE, *by Somebody, of Awliscombe.*

MY first a fowl that you know well;
Its value will my second tell;
The whole, conjoin'd together right,
A British admiral comes in sight,
The Gallic fleet who bravely fought,
And drubb'd them as a Briton ought.

A REBUS, *by J. Ryan, of Stonehouse.*

WHEN dire invasion threats our coast,
May Britons on my first e'er boast
They still have crush'd the foe;
'Tis there, if you with care inspect,
My second you will soon detect,
A living thing I know.

An insect doth my last procure,
In various ways 'tis used I'm sure,
How ancient is its fame!
My whole, when friends are far apart,
Oft guards the secrets of each heart,
Ye gents. pray shew its name.

POETRY.

RURAL STROLLS.

[From Mercer's Poems.]

LET sullen fools for ever hide;
At ev'n I gain the peopled road;
Or, led by friendship, turn aside
To greet my neighbour in his thatch'd abode.
With him I pace the fields,
Learn what his harvest yields,
And see his children pass in playful drove;
I know the urchins all;
On me by name they call,
And flatter wrinkled age with many a mark of love.

As thus my daily rounds I go,
Still some kind office breeds delay;
My mite with pleasure I bestow,
To cheer the wand'ring beggar on his way.
And should the buxom lass,
Of yonder hamlet pass,
Fresh, blooming, and of harmless favours free;
Safe from her roguish smile,
I hand her o'er the stile,
And pray that she may meet with livelier lads than me.

Lines, by Mr. Pratt, on seeing the Casts of Mr. Pitt, Mr. Fox, and the Duchess of Devonshire. Taken from their Faces, within a few hours after Death, by Mr. Nollekens.

[Forty-two busts of Mr. Pitt, from these casts, are already ordered, at one hundred guineas each; and a yet greater number of Mr. Fox, and the duchess, at the same price.]

YE faithful images of death
Formed, when the newly-parted breath,
Had struggling left its house of clay,
Alas! what changes ye display;
Changes so vast, I scarcely find,
One trait of visage, or of mind.

Behold! within a few short hours,
A monarch each of mental powers,
Behold two wonders of the world,
From wit and wisdom's empire hurl'd!
A third—the sovereign of the gay
Dethron'd from fashion's, beauty's sway,
Three naked masks, they now appear
The mockery of what they were.

From lips like those of deadly pale,
Where still the marks of pain prevail;
And in each lineament is seen,
Where the last agonies have been—
Ah! could I think—had I not heard,
With mute attention every word—

Ahi

Ah! could I think, my raptur'd ear,
As to the music of the sphere,
Had fix'd me list'ning on the spot,
My sleep, my health, myself forgot,
Where Britain, Europe, seem'd to wait
The issue of *their* deep debate?
By turns I felt Pitt's awful sense,
And glow'd with Fox's eloquence;
Unwarp'd by faction, the free mind
To each the patriot palm assign'd.

And who, fair Devon! could suppose,
That lifeless lids, alas! like those,
Sunk and distorted by disease,
Had e'er possess'd such power to please?
Had softly veil'd those eyes of fire
That long monopoliz'd the lyre;
When flush'd with youth, in beauty's grace
I first survey'd that alter'd face;
That face which more than beauty knew,
Opening high virtues to the view;
For bounty in each feature smil'd,
And sorrow call'd thee pity's child.
Hadst thou an error? 'twas excess,
A wish, beyond the means to bless,
That all the injured, and the poor,
Should feel a wrong, a want, no more.
Ah! had an ampler scope been given
To her warm heart by favouring Heaven.
Had the same stretch of boundless power
That aids war's tyrant to devour,
Myriads of widows, orphans, friends,
Whose heart-strings now that tyrant rends,
Would, from her hand have found relief,
And ev'ry lenitive of grief.

And shall such feelings cause a foe
To the prov'd friend of want and woe?
No! thou pale semblance copied here,
Which mine eye traces thro' a tear,
There lives not one whose eye, like mine,
Will not drop incense on thy shrine.

Three Things a good Wife should be like, which three Things she should not *be like.*

A Wife domestic, good, and pure,
Like snail should keep within her door;
But *not* like snail, in silver'd track,
Place all her wealth upon her back.
A wife should be like echo true,
And speak but when she's spoken to;
But *not* like echo—still be heard
Contending for the final word.
Like a town clock a wife should be—
Keep time and regularity;
But *not* like clocks—harangue so clear,
That all the town her voice might hear.

Young man! if these allusions strike—
She whom as bride you'd hail,
Must just be *like*, and just *unlike*,
An echo, clock, and snail.

Bath. W. M.